

M I D D L E E A S T A N D S O U T H A S I A R E V I E W

25 JANUARY 1982

Lebanon

State Security for Christian Areas -- Voice of Lebanon radio reported on 22 January that Phalangist Party leader Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil called on the Lebanese Government to assume security in the eastern areas. He said the Phalangists are willing to place all their resources and potential at the disposal of Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and the Lebanese state. Al-Jumayyil also reiterated his side's willingness to halt arms shipments and close ports under its control provided the flow of arms to other organizations is stopped and the other ports and points of entry are closed.

In remarks broadcast by Beirut radio the same day, Prime Minister al-Wazzan noted that he had told a specially convened Internal Security Council meeting that Al-Jumayyil's call for the state to assume its responsibility in Phalangist areas should be accepted. Beirut radio reported that in another meeting chaired by Al-Wazzan on 25 January, the Internal Security Council discussed measures to enable the authorities to assume security responsibilities in the eastern areas.

The Voice of Hope radio reported on the same day that Maj Sa'd Haddad announced his willingness to allow the Lebanese Army to enter his Christian enclave in the south "after it is actually deployed from the capital up to the borders of our state and after it succeeds in preventing the presence of any weapons in its area of deployment other than the weapons in its hands." Haddad said that to show good intentions and to be consistent with the Phalangist initiative, his militia had decided to permit the Lebanese Government to dispatch gendarmes and reopen the various gendarme stations.

Butrus-Al-Asad Meeting -- According to Damascus radio, Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus reviewed the Lebanese situation with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad during a 23 January visit to Damascus. On his return to Beirut, Butrus delivered a message from Al-Asad to President Ilyas Sarkis, Beirut radio reported.

Security Situation -- Beirut radio reported that on the evening of 23 January Israeli naval vessels fired at several Lebanese fishermen near Tyre, sinking their boats and seriously injuring two fishermen. The following day Jerusalem radio's English service reported that an IDF spokesman had denied the charge. Meanwhile, Beirut radio noted that local organizations clashed over the weekend in the southern towns of Jwayya and an-Nabatiyah. The clashes were between the Amal movement and leftist groups, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Syria

Jordan Accused over Incident -- In a statement broadcast by Damascus radio, an Interior Ministry spokesman accused Jordanian troops of providing covering fire for an armed group that infiltrated Syria from Jordan and ambushed a Syrian military patrol on 21 January, killing its commander. Asserting that the group was covered by Jordanian fire when it withdrew into Jordan, the spokesman said Syria holds the Jordanian authorities responsible for this "serious incident."

However, a Jordanian Interior Ministry spokesman denied the Syrian charge. In a statement broadcast by Amman radio, the spokesman stressed that no clash had occurred between any Syrian patrol and armed elements entering Syria from Jordan. Indicating that the Syrian accusation may refer to recent armed clashes in Dar'a, the Jordanian spokesman said his government denounces Syria's "fabrication of claims harming the Jordanian forces in order to cover the deep internal problems in Syria."

Meeting Postponement -- According to Damascus radio, Syria requested that the Arab League's Ministerial Council emergency meeting scheduled for 26 January be postponed until 7 February because of "the short time before the meeting, the important subjects that will be submitted during it and the necessary presence of the Arab foreign ministers in New York" on 28 January.

Jadid Involvement in Plot -- According to Voice of Lebanon radio, the authorities have blamed the recent abortive coup on the group associated with Salah Jadid, who was removed from the Syrian leadership in 1970 by Hafiz al-Asad.

Military Strategy, Soviet Visit -- In an interview with the Riyadh paper AL-JAZIRAH, Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas said that since the Arab countries bordering Israel are unable to unite and "immediately launch struggle against the Zionist enemy," Arab states should opt for a second-best strategy of providing material and moral backing for a Palestinian war of attrition against Israel.

According to the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio, a Soviet military delegation headed by USSR Armed Forces General Staff Chief Marshal Nikolay Ogarkov will arrive in Damascus shortly for talks aimed at strengthening Syria's military capability.

Further Reactions to UN Veto, Kirkpatrick Remarks

According to SANA, the Syrian daily TISHRIN said the United States disdains the Arabs, regarding them as people who utter threats but do not act, and who talk about solidarity but fail to achieve it. SANA also reported that the Syrian daily AL-BA'TH advocated a confrontation with the United States and its "tool," Israel, stating that such confrontation must begin by striking at U.S. interests in the region. According to SANA, Damascus ATH-THAWRAH said that the liberation of Arab territory depends not on Israeli laws or U.S. vetoes but on the balance of power and on Syrian determination to prepare for the battle of liberation.

Amman radio cited Jordanian Foreign Ministry source who said that Israel will interpret the U.S. veto as support for its "aggressive and expansionist" policy. The spokesman added that there must be joint Arab action based on genuine Arab solidarity. An Amman AD-DUSTUR editorial commented that the U.S. veto confirms that the Washington-Tel Aviv strategic alliance is stronger than any written document. Amman radio reported an AD-DUSTUR commentary which said that Israel now thinks it can secure U.S. support in all circumstances, and that Israel's "premeditated aggressive intentions" require that the Arab states prepare for a confrontation as if it were to occur tomorrow and that they bypass "all conventional restrictions" for securing the requisites of political and military strength.

The Saudi newspaper AL-MADINAH considered the U.S. veto a practical application of the U.S.-Israeli strategic cooperation agreement, QNA reported. The agency also said the Saudi daily 'UKAZ called for a renewal of the Fes summit, with all parties present, to reach a unified Arab strategy. "The Arabs must stand like one true Arab, in Arab attire, not with a cowboy hat or a bearskin," the paper concluded.

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that a PLO spokesman characterized statements by U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations Jeane Kirkpatrick as flagrant intervention in the internal affairs of a UN observer-member, blind support for the "Zionist Israeli aggressor" and blatant violation of the UN Charter. The spokesman added that the statements reveal an anti-PLO U.S. plot in the information media as a prelude to a U.S.-planned military operation to be implemented by Israel.

Egypt

Mubarak Interviews -- MENA reported that in an interview with the FRG magazine DER SPIEGEL, President Husni Mubarak said there is no relationship between the timing of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai and an agreement on the principles of Palestinian autonomy, which might be delayed 1, 2 or 6 months. In an interview with AL-AKHBAR, also reported by MENA, Mubarak denied that the United States has pressured Egypt to reach an agreement on autonomy before 25 April. Asserting that Egypt has taken "daring steps" on the road to peace, he said it is now up to others to do the same. He also rejected the issuance of an "incomplete" declaration of principles on autonomy, asserting that any such declaration should be complete.

On internal affairs, Mubarak told DER SPIEGEL that he is not considering increasing the number of political parties in Egypt and that he will not permit the establishment of religious parties. In his interview with AL-AKHBAR, Mubarak said political parties will be allowed to publish their own newspapers "in due time."

Autonomy Talks Postponement -- MENA reported that Egypt agreed to the U.S. proposal for a postponement of the autonomy talks scheduled to start 24 January.

Soviet Experts -- Beirut radio reported that in its 25 January edition, AL-AHRAM quoted Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali as saying that Egypt will ask the Soviet Union for expert assistance in various industrial fields.

Israel

Message from Reagan -- Jerusalem radio reported that Prime Minister Menahem Begin received an "exceptionally friendly" message from President Ronald Reagan on 22 January.

Sharon on Egypt Visit -- In an interview published by MA'ARIV on 22 January, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon said that during his talks with Egyptian President Mubarak, he explained that Israel will not attack Lebanon unless the Palestinians open fire, in which case "Israel will react very speedily and not as it did in July 1981." Sharon also opined that Israel has no reason to fear an Egyptian rapprochement with the Arab countries and should not issue warnings about this.

According to IDF radio, Sharon told the 24 January Cabinet meeting that Israel should improve relations with Egypt and decrease the level of mutual suspicion.

Calls for PLO-Israeli Dialogue -- Monte Carlo radio reported on 22 January that Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj called on the Palestinians and Arabs to negotiate with Israel. Since there is no military solution to the Arab-Israeli problem, he said, the solution must be a peaceful one. He urged the PLO to undertake a worldwide information campaign to gain public support and persuade people of the Palestinians' belief in peaceful coexistence. The Bethlehem mayor also said the PLO must open a dialogue with the United States. Cairo radio reported that Egypt's AL-JUMHURIYAH praised Frayj's "voice of reason." Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio reported that Alignment MK Yosi Sarid expressed willingness to meet with PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres subsequently reiterated his opposition to holding contacts with the PLO, the radio noted.

Libya

Tripoli radio reported that Col Mu'ammr al-Qadhafi stopped in Tunisia during his return from Algiers. According to Tunis radio, while on his way back to Tripoli overland, Al-Qadhafi held talks in Qabis with Tunisian Prime Minister Mohamed Mzalai. Citing a Tunisian source, AFP said the talks took place in a cordial and relaxed atmosphere. According to Tripoli radio, Al-Qadhafi arrived back in Tripoli late on 24 January.

Sudan

SUNA reported that President Ja'far Numayri issued a decision on 24 January dissolving the Sudanese Socialist Union's (SSU) Central Committee, Political Bureau, Secretary General's Bureau and General Secretariat. However, SSU structures will remain unchanged until elections are held at a date to be announced later. Numayri aims at "expanding the circle of participation" in building Sudan, SUNA noted, and has decided to form a 41-member Popular Committee to submit proposals and ideas for developing SSU work.

Earlier, SUNA reported that over the weekend Numayri held several meetings with armed forces commanders. According to other SUNA reports, the president told political and military leaders that recent acts of unrest were backed by "plots" aimed at transforming Sudan into another Lebanon. He also called on Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states to resume their aid to Sudan.

Among the recommendations of the conference of Sudan's political, executive and legislative leaders, as reported by SUNA, was a call for meetings with "all the nationalist forces" and an open dialogue with the intelligentsia. The conference urged a reassessment of Sudan's political "experiment" to renew its conventions, ideology and constitution, and also recommended that penal and civil procedures be amended.

Bahrain

WAKH reported that Jordanian King Husayn held talks with Bahraini leaders in Manama over the weekend. WAKH noted that a Bahraini official said the discussions dealt with mutual cooperation, and asserted that the Bahraini Cabinet praised Jordan's "positive role" in attempting to restore Arab solidarity. According to another WAKH report, Bahraini Acting Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah revealed that King Husayn denounced Iranian intervention in the Gulf region. Manama radio said that during his 2-day visit, the Jordanian king visited the headquarters of Bahrain's defense force.

Iran

Velayati on Gulf Security -- In an interview with Tehran radio, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati reminded Arab Gulf states that Iran is the greatest and most powerful state in the Gulf region. If Gulf states are to create a security pact, he said, ignoring Iran is like "hiding your head in the sand." Velayati warned Arab Gulf states that unlike Iran, they cannot live without oil.

Security Situation -- AFP reported that the Tehran TIMES said recent executions of Baha'is were justified because the minority sect had collaborated with the late shah's regime. The paper warned that the Baha'i execution figures mentioned in Western newspapers fall short of the numbers who "may" deserve to be executed.

Bank governor on U.S. Claims -- According to AFP, Central Bank Governor Mohsen Nurbakhsh said in a 23 January Tehran TIMES interview that most U.S. financial claims against Iran under the January 1981 Algiers agreement, "have turned out to be unfounded." He said resolution of all the claims could take 50 years.

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SATTAR ASKS PARTY DISSIDENTS FOR COOPERATION

BK221514 Dacca SANGBAD in Bengali 18 Jan 82 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] Talks between the Bangladesh Nationalist Party [BNP] dissident group and Justice Abdus Sattar, the president and party chairman, were not successful. According to a reliable source, Justice Sattar has called on the dissidents to extend their cooperation for the smooth operation of the forthcoming Parliament session. The dissidents expressed their dissatisfaction because nothing was clearly stated about their demands.

The leaders and MP's of the BNP dissident group, who visited Banga Bhavan yesterday evening in response to an invitation for dinner extended to them by President and Party Chairman Justice Sattar, included Begum Khalida Zia [widow of former President Ziaur Rahman], former Minister Barrister Maudud Ahmed, S.A. Bari [former deputy prime minister], Major General (retired) Nurul Islam, Obaidur Rahman, Tanzir Ahmed Siddiqui and other MP's of the dissident group. BNP Secretary General Badruddozza Chowdhury and several members of the Council of Ministers, including Prime Minister Shah Azizur Rahman, were also present.

Justice Sattar had a long discussion with the members of the dissident group at the meeting yesterday evening.

A reliable source said that during the discussions Justice Sattar, in a statement, called upon everyone to extend full cooperation for the smooth functioning of the forthcoming Parliament session.

The same source said that speaking on the president's statement Barrister Maudud Ahmed said that differences which have developed in the party should be first removed, and the politics of balance of power in the party should be restored. Otherwise, the result will not be favorable.

Taking part in the discussion, former Minister Major General (retired) Nurul Islam made a strong statement. He alleged that the balance of power in the party has been affected and undesirable people were placed in important positions in the government. The same source said that at one stage Islam alleged that "BNP is being turned into a Muslim league". He added that if this situation continues, it will not only affect national unity but will also place the nation and the people on the brink of disaster. He criticized the appointment of the chief whip and other whips without consulting the BNP parliamentary party.

While making his statement, BNP Secretary General Professor Badruddozza Chowdhury alleged that "lots of propaganda was carried against me when I was abroad, but the party did not lodge any protest". He said that only with the confidence of everyone can the party progress.

Begum Khalida Zia did not make any statement. However, when the question of the party chairmanship was raised, she is reported to have said that it had been decided earlier that her name would be proposed for the party chairmanship by Justice Sattar, but later it was revealed that Justice Sattar was himself a candidate for that position.

FINANCE MINISTER DEPARTS FOR EUROPEAN TOUR

BK171723 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 17 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Saifur Rahman left Dacca today for a 2-week tour of Europe to attend the governing council session of the international fund for agricultural development in Rome. He will also lead the country's delegation to the Bangladesh-Yugoslavia joint commission meeting in Belgrade. The trip will also take him to the European Economic Community headquarters in Brussels to discuss the economic relations with the community and explore the possibility of increasing food aid for Bangladesh.

PRESIDENT REDDY DELIVERS MESSAGE TO NATION

BK241055 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1826 GMT 23 Jan 82

["Text" of President Sanjiva Reddy's message to the nation on the eve of Republic Day, 25 January]

[Excerpts] Tomorrow we celebrate the 33rd Republic Day. On this auspicious occasion I am happy to greet you, fellow citizens, and convey my good wishes to you all. On this occasion, I wish to share with you my happiness about the country's achievements during the past 30 years and also my concern about some aspects of our national life.

As we look back over the country's record, we find many things to be pleased about. Foodgrains production has increased from about 55 million tonnes to over 130 million tonnes. Considerable industrial capacity has been created in capital, intermediate and consumer goods as well as in infrastructural facilities.

We are self-sufficient in several fields of technology and our technical men are working in different parts of the world with distinction.

We are making progress in the use of nuclear power to supplement the conventional sources of energy and we have made a beginning in space technology as well.

Our domestic oil production has gone up considerably in the last 20 years and is likely to increase further. We can be rightly proud of these achievements.

At the same time there are many features in the economy which cannot but cause concern. Over rupees 90,000 crores have been invested in the 5-year plans, which works out to almost 100 rupees per person per year. But the fruits of development are beyond the reach of a large number. Unemployment and underemployment continue to dog us. The increases in per capita incomes or per capita availability of many essential articles are far short of the goals we had set for ourselves and the expectations aroused in the early years of planning. There is no doubt that the large increase in population neutralises a great deal of the benefits of development.

The numerous external challenges to our territorial integrity have similarly come in the way of our endeavours. Yet, if only the installed capacities had been utilised with greater efficiency, there would have been much more to show for the investments made. It is, therefore, necessary to pay greater attention to this aspect.

We all know that the basic problems of India were not created in a day and cannot be solved in a day. It is all the greater reason why we must exert ourselves to overcome our national shortcomings.

In recent months the infrastructure has performed better and industrial production has risen, thanks to the combined efforts of workers and managers. The annual harvest has also been good. The wholesale price index has shown improvement but this is yet to be reflected in retail prices, which continue to cause anxiety to the government and people alike.

The public distribution system is being enlarged, but a sizeable number, especially in the countryside, are still outside its purview. Even the knowledge that inflation is a global phenomenon caused by the rapid rise of oil prices does not lighten this burden. They might be willing to put up with the hardship if they see a climate of austerity and simple living around them.

Popular feeling will naturally view with disfavour not only conspicuous consumption by the affluent but any public expenditure which is not directly related to development or to the defence of the nation.

I must refer here to the growing tendency to violence that has been manifesting itself in recent years in some parts of the country. The values and sanctions which had in the past enabled us to live together in peace appear to be losing their hold. Respect for law and order and the sanctity of life and property seem no longer to guide our conduct. Most of you, like me, feel perturbed by frequent instances of atrocities on the weak and the innocent and wanton damage to property. Using all the means available to it, I am sure the government will endeavour to curb the trend to violence and to restore a sense of security to the citizen.

I had the privilege of having been a member of the Constituent Assembly. Some of the ablest men of our country had been engaged in the drafting of our constitution and, in doing so, they had drawn upon the experience of the working of democratic institutions elsewhere. We have reason to feel satisfied that our democratic system has been working satisfactorily. The constitution, which is supreme, has spelt out the role of the different agencies created by it. It behoves them all to work within the respective spheres allotted to them and confine themselves to the role assigned to them, observing in letter and spirit the constitutional provisions. Any attempt to transgress the limits imposed by it can only lead to confusion. The sad experience of countries which have been subject to continued political turmoil must serve as a warning to us. In the faithful working by all of us on the constitution, which we have given unto ourselves, lies the guarantee of the nation's political stability.

The essence of the democratic system is that problems are discussed and debated by the people's representatives and decisions are taken on the basis of a broad measure of agreement. The views of the opposition, who too represent a sizeable section of the people, ought to be given due consideration. The opposition, on its part, is expected to be reasonable and responsible in its approach. For the healthy functioning of democracy, a strong and responsible opposition is a prerequisite. We have to cultivate those habits of mind required for the successful working of democracy. The qualities of restraint and moderation and a spirit of accommodation and compromise need to be cultivated by all of us to make the system work. We must draw upon our deeper resources of wisdom and make a success of our democratic form of government.

I have spoken at length about the disturbing features of the national scene because, unless we take immediate action to arrest the disregard of moral values in the public life, the people's faith in our political system will be undermined with the consequences which are too frightening to contemplate. May I fervently appeal to all political parties to do some heart searching and endeavour to bring about a regeneration of moral values in our public life? And may I also add that my faith in the soundness of our people is undimmed? They have a proven capacity to overcome their problems. Where the defence of freedom or national integrity is concerned, I am sure that our people will never be found wanting. This is a heartening feeling at a moment when the international situation is so full of dangers and forebodings.

In recent months, I had many opportunities of meeting officers and men of our armed forces. I visited them at remote places like Ladakh, Nathula, Tawang and other border areas and talked to them. They are full of cheer and courage. These men who serve in inaccessible areas enduring inhospitable climate, who stand sentinel over the country's borders, deserve our admiration and gratitude.

In 6 months from now I shall demit the office as the president of India and this is the last occasion on which I shall be speaking to you on a national day. I am grateful to all sections of the people for the affection shown towards me. May providence crown with success our efforts to create better conditions of living for our people.

Jai Hind.

SHAHI RETURNS FROM VISIT TO ITALY, ROMANIA

BK230619 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Agha Shahi arrived in Karachi this morning. He had accompanied the president during his visit to Italy and Romania.

PUBLICATION OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BANNED

BK241650 Hong Kong AFP in English 1632 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Karachi, 24 Jan (AFP) -- Newspapers in Karachi have been asked by the military government not to publish news of political activities or political leaders as all political activities are banned under martial law for the past 3 years.

The government served a notice to the newspaper editors following the recent lifting of precensorship after several years.

The editors have been asked by the government to ensure that news and views which project political activities, personalities or parties are not published.

The local newspapers had in the past few weeks been giving wide coverage to the politicians who had started meeting and making statements after the lifting of the censorship on the national press.

AFGHAN OFFICIAL, FAMILY TO BE RETURNED HOME

GF250516 Karachi DAWN in English 21 Jan 82 p 16

[Text] Islamabad, 20 Jan (AFP) -- The Government of Pakistan has withdrawn permission for temporary residence granted to Mr Ayub Safi, who defected from the Kabul regime in September last while posted as first secretary in the Kabul mission here, it was officially stated here today.

The government has arranged for the return of Mr Ayub and his family to his country.

In September 1981, the Afghan mission in Islamabad informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs that Mr Ayub Safi, first secretary in the mission, had left Pakistan on permanent transfer to Kabul. However, Mr Ayub Safi approached the Pakistani authorities and announced his defection from the Kabul regime, stating that he did not wish to return because of fear of persecution in his country and on account of his reservations about the regime in Kabul.

Mr Ayub Safi requested temporary residence in Pakistan and indicated his desire to seek political asylum in the United States of America.

The Government of Pakistan allowed him temporary residence to enable him to approach the U.S. Embassy and the UNHCR [UN Human Rights Commission] for the purpose of seeking political asylum abroad. Evidently, Mr Ayub Safi's efforts to gain political asylum elsewhere did not bear fruit, and it was found that he had visited the Afghan mission to re-establish contacts with the Kabul authorities. This action has demonstrated that the grounds for giving temporary residence to Mr Ayub Safi, namely fear of persecution in his own country, have ceased to exist.

The Government of Pakistan has, therefore, decided to withdraw permission for temporary residence for Mr Ayub Safi and his family in Pakistan and has arranged for their return to their country.

BANK GOVERNOR: U.S. FINANCIAL CLAIMS UNFOUNDED

NC231827 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 23 Jan (AFP) -- Most U.S. financial claims against Iran under the Algiers agreement of January 19, 1981 which allowed for the release of the 52 U.S. hostages held in Tehran "have turned out to be unfounded," the governor of Iran's Central Bank said in an interview published here today.

Bank Governor Mohsen Nurbakhsh told the English language daily Tehran TIMES that resolution of all the claims "could take 50 years" because "Iran will strongly resist unfounded claims."

He noted that the deadline for filing financial claims with a special court in The Hague under the agreement had expired on January 19.

Mr Nurbakhsh said many of the American claims could be reduced to five per cent of their face value. For example, he said, "if an American company had brought any installation worth five million dollars, it is now asking 100 million dollars. But we will not give in to such demands."

Iran's claims against the United States, he said, included one for 480,000 dollars by the driver of a tank truck that caught fire during the abortive U.S. military raid on Tabas.

He said they also included claims for reimbursement for U.S. participation in the overthrow of Iran's Mossadeq regime and for "12,000 million dollars that Americans took from Iran."

KHOMAYNI CONDEMNS U.S. VETO OF UN RESOLUTION

LD242244 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 24 Jan (IRNA) -- The leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, today urged Muslim nations to pool their capability in order to foil the insinuations of the world superpowers against the oppressed nations and the Muslim people. Hitting at the expansionist policies of the world's big powers, the imam said that the superpowers are transgressing against the rights of the Muslim people by acts far more inhuman than what would be expected in any society living under the 'law of the jungle'.

The imam, who was referring to the U.S. veto of a resolution by Muslim countries in the United Nations for enforcing sanctions against the regime occupying Jerusalem for its annexation of the Golan Heights, indicated the United Nations was the invention of a number of oppressor world powers in order that they might exploit it for their own ends. He added while the organisation has been formed by the big powers, the big powers have given themselves veto-powers, in order that they might check other nations where and when they deemed necessary.

The imam, who was talking to a group of visitors from Qom, commanders of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, theological students and others in the Hoseyniyeh mosque in Tehran again censured the U.S. Government as being the root of many evils in the world and one which had given the green light to and supported the regime occupying Jerusalem in the latter's annexation of the Golan Heights. He urged the Muslim nations to discard their trivial differences and to muster their power for sweeping away the Jerusalem usurping regime. Said he in reference to the annexation issue and in just another of his outspoken condemnations of the regime occupying Jerusalem, "you (Muslim nations) should together sweep away this corrupt offshoot, or else it will remain a cancerous tumour capable of expanding. It is not likely to content itself by annexing only the Golan Heights". The imam said the plight of the Muslim world was rooted in the oppressive policies of the United States and the Soviet Union.

Said the imam elsewhere, without referring by name to the human rights organisations, "these organisations and others which have been created by their criminal hands, have outraged the dignity of all mankind." He said that by disguising themselves under the mask of supporting human rights such organisations have remained totally silent over the "countless crimes being committed by these two superpowers," or, he continued, if they have ever said anything by way of condemning them, it has sounded more like a joke than a serious protest against their acts.

The imam's speech was interrupted several times by the lauding of "Allah-o-Akbar" from the audience.

VELAYATI ON U.S. VETO, JORDANIAN 'AGGRESSION'

LD231158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] Today, our country's foreign affairs minister, Mr Velayati, was interviewed by a Central News Unit correspondent. Commenting on the U.S. right of veto at the United Nations, Mr Velayati said: As Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced, the right of veto, which has been given to the big powers, is unfair. In other words, from the early days they accorded themselves this right when there weren't any small countries to observe and supervise. The other countries then faced a fait accompli. In general, this right of veto has so far been a tool in the hands of the big powers to impose their own views. Since the establishment of the United Nations, this tool has also been used against the oppressed nation of Palestine and we strongly condemn this action by America.

In reply to a question as to his evaluation of Jordanian military aggression against Syria, the minister of foreign affairs said: We assume that regimes like Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan are in fact American bases in the region, which have provided lateral [janbi] assistance to stabilize Israel's position and its expansion into the occupied territories.

He reiterated: What Jordan has done to Syria does not surprise us; we would have been surprised if the situation had been different. On the other hand, we know that by America's order, the Jordanian regime has given plenty of assistance to Iraq in its war against Iran. The reason behind this is that Iran is confronting America.

About his own trip to Libya, Mr Velayati said: We have accepted the invitation of Mr 'Ubaydi, the Libyan foreign minister, and, God willing, we shall soon go to that country.

VELAYATI WARNS AGAINST CREATING TENSION IN GULF

LD222012 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 82

[Central News Unit correspondent's interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; date and place not given -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [question indistinct]

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. As you say, a few days ago our brother, Prime Minister Musavi, announced that the parents of Iraqi POW's can visit their sons in Iran. This announcement is in fact a humane act by the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the same time, it is a response to the lies and machinations spread by Saddam and his supporters against Iran concerning our treatment of the prisoners. Therefore, there is nothing more natural for us than to declare that the parents of the Iraqi POW's are free to visit Iran and see the condition of their sons for themselves. We have already officially notified the International Red Cross in Geneva through the Red Cross office in Iran. Needless to say, they shall notify Baghdad through their own office in that country. As we have been informed through a letter by the Red Cross, this organisation has already notified Baghdad.

As for Iraq, Saddam has reciprocated, declaring that Iranian families can also visit their sons in Iraq. Needless to say, this is a general announcement. What we want him to do is to follow Iran's approach and give details, saying where and how and how many. As soon as this is made clear, we shall send the Iranian POW's families to Iraq.

[question indistinct]

[Answer] We have had every confidence in our victory from the beginning of the war. The problem with these Americans and their agents is that they are always lagging behind our imam and our nation in terms of time. This has been the case in all stages. The imam used to make predictions at various stages of our revolution with our nation following the imam's guidelines. However, failing to appreciate the nature of the revolution, the Americans continued to make convulsive attempts, although eventually they were forced to accept facts.

We knew from the beginning of the war that we would win. The imam too always predicted that Saddam would fall. Eventually, despite baseless propaganda against us, despite the extremely deviated claims made by Saddam, it has become clear that we are victorious, so much so that such papers as the Washington POST, the New York TIMES and THE GUARDIAN carried extensive articles about the victories of the Islamic army against the Takritis.

Signs point to the fact that these people are rather apprehensive, hoping that the regime which will replace Saddam after his fall will be a regime which will follow Saddam's policies, namely, pro-American. All their attempts are directed toward this end. Therefore, Mr Husni Mubarak, whose pro-American attitude no one can doubt, a man whose relations to Mr Begin are tantamount to two souls in one body, has announced that he will provide assistance to the Iraqi Army and will fight against the Iranian Army, against the Islamic Iranian Army.

Now we notice that U.S. political figures are making hasty visits to the region. In this connection, reference can be made to Mr Haig, Mr Charles Percy and others who are making regular visits to the countries of the region.

[question indistinct]

[Answer] In general, we are not against the principle of establishing ties between the Islamic countries or of forming a cooperation pact or organization. Not only are we not against such cooperation but we will support such development, providing this cooperation is aimed at closer ties between Muslims.

As far as this special case is concerned [presumably Persian Gulf security arrangement, excluding Iran and Iraq], well, it is up to them. They know what is best for them and on the basis of this evaluation they will decide and form a closer tie. Yet as far as Iran is concerned, it is necessary for me to point out certain issues and to remind the states bordering the Persian Gulf.

First of all, as we have repeatedly said, we consider it important to have an atmosphere in which there are friendly relations between neighboring countries, especially between the Muslim countries. The basis of our foreign policy is to maintain mutual respect and we want everyone to realize that the archenemy of the Muslims is the United States. The U.S. representative in the region is Israel and all our attention must be concentrated on fighting the United States in general and Israel in particular. The Islamic countries must join hands and forces and fight Israel through unity. If the council aims at fighting Israel, then its goal is good.

But, if the council, as the mass media have reported, is to be considered as a front against Iran, such cooperation and gathering of propaganda against Iran, which is opposing the United States and Israel, no doubt would not serve the cause of the Muslims. Those who lead these countries should realize this fact.

Yet as far as we are concerned, and it is necessary to remind the gentlemen of the states bordering the Persian Gulf, the fact exists that they should not forget that Iran forms the greatest and most powerful state of the region. We have the longest border on the Persian Gulf. If a security pact is to be created among the states bordering the Persian Gulf then, naturally, ignoring Iran is like hiding your head in the sand and pretending that you do not see what is happening.

We would like to remind the gentlemen [words indistinct]. If they are supposed [words indistinct], it is natural to expect they will stand to lose more than anyone else. The continuation of their regimes and their economic welfare depend on the one single economic factor -- oil. In order to derive financial benefits from their oil, they must be able to export their crude oil in an atmosphere of stability and calm in the Persian Gulf. If, on the other hand, the region is turned into a region of tension and instability, then it is natural to say that they will not achieve such an end and will not be able to continue with their quiet life.

On the other hand, we, as a country with vast agricultural and economic resources, will be able to live without oil, but they cannot. We can live without the income from oil and with the support of the millions-strong masses. We can bear difficulties for a long time. But they should realize that if even one bullet is fired in the Persian Gulf, at the first instance they would be the ones deprived of a normal situation and their regimes would collapse automatically.

Therefore, we believe that the Persian Gulf region must remain a region of stability and all the countries in the region should make the effort, join hands and prevent the creation of tension or fire which ultimately would benefit no one.

As the region's greatest country, Iran would assert the last word. Our country always has had the upper hand and will continue to maintain it. The fact is that we have repeatedly suggested to them and have said many things in common for cooperation and coexistence. There is no reason why tension should reign between us and the Persian Gulf littoral states. We say this because such tension benefits no one. But, unfortunately, they pay no attention. They are under the effect of U.S. influence and provocations.

As we read in the Western press, the Americans are worried about the prospect of Saddam's downfall, about the Islamic Republic consolidating its power. Why? Because they know well that if the Islamic Republic takes root, Israel will be (?destroyed). The Americans are witnessing the fact that our regime is backed by 36 million people and has its base rooted in the people's hearts. With their blood, this people brought an end to the shah, brought this regime into power and supports the regime with all their might. This is what is a danger to Israel. (?Therefore, the United States is making every effort) to bring down our regime and is trying to create the right atmosphere against Iran among the nations of the region and to continue their provocation. This is in spite of the fact that we have stated repeatedly that we do not wish any tension in the form of military conflict whatsoever between us and the rest of the world countries.

If there are any conflicts between us and others, this is because they started the conflict and launched their offensive against us. We are in conflict with the United States because the United States is our archenemy, an enemy who for over a quarter of a century has opposed us openly and is still continuing to do so. Therefore, it is our just right to stand against it. We are in conflict with U.S. agents such as the regimes of Egypt and Morocco or countries such as South Africa and Israel and others whom it is not necessary to name, because they are U.S. satellites and servants. We want friendly relations with other countries and we accord them importance and priority accordingly: We prefer, in the first instance, to have good relations with our neighbors; we prefer to have good relations with the nonaligned countries.

Finally, we remind those who are urging exchanges of visits, the formation of a common council, ignoring Iran in a region where Iran is the most powerful nation, that in spite of all its might and resources, in spite of all its military pacts, the United States was not able to stand against the firm will of our nation.

We have no fear of such pacts which in our ultimate analysis are nothing. Instead of wasting their time and resources, the Persian Gulf littoral states should join hands with us in a pact to fight the United States, our archenemy, on the international level and Israel on the regional level, thus creating an atmosphere in which the governments of the Islamic countries will become servants of their nations.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

RAFSANJANI OUTLINES NATION'S POLICIES IN SERMON

GF221029 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0825 GMT 22 Jan 82

[Friday sermon delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting Tehran Friday imam and Majlis speaker, at Tehran University -- live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. "Surely this people of yours is one people, and I am your lord, so worship me." [Koranic verse]

We have [word indistinct] unity week that was proclaimed by Ayatollah Montazeri in the best manner. The Muslim world has learned the aims of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those who [words indistinct] the facts have fully realized the objectives of the Islamic revolution in Iran. The revolution's Islamic policy toward Muslims and the oppressed on one hand, and toward the infidels and imperialists on the other, was explained to them.

During this week we declared the following:

First, we call on the Muslim world to unite and cooperate in the political, economic, information, scientific and cultural fields.

Second, we seek to expel Israel from the region and to eradicate Zionism and imperialist bases in our Muslim world.

Third, we firmly oppose feuding and fighting among Muslim countries and believe that differences among Muslims should be resolved through negotiations under Muslim supervision on the basis of the Koran's teachings.

Fourth, we believe that the Muslim world should be free of the domination of imperialist unbelievers. We can pave the way for a people's government within the framework of Islam by expelling the agents of the East and the West and by giving freedom to Muslim people.

Fifth, Iran does not want to attack the small countries of the Persian Gulf and does not want to interfere in their internal affairs. Iran is prepared to cooperate with these countries to repulse attacks by the [word indistinct] enemies.

Sixth, the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully prepared to extend the technical and scientific capabilities at its disposal to its Muslim brothers to assist them in getting rid of the great powers, as it did in fraternal Muslim Libya, and does not expect anything in return for this Islamic service.

Seventh, we believe that [words indistinct] the Arabic language is the language of the Koran and Islam's main language and the most important means of understanding among Muslims. We have made its teaching compulsory for the Iranian people and have made it the country's second language.

Eighth, with regard to the war imposed by the Iraqi regime we believe that the only way to end it is by the withdrawal of the aggressor forces, putting the aggressor on trial and punishing him and restoring to the victim of aggression his usurped rights.

Ninth, with regard to the rulers of the small neighboring countries of the Persian Gulf -- despite their suspect endeavors and their plotting against Iran's interests, despite their hostile attitudes during the war imposed by the Iraqi regime on Iran and their support to this regime financially and through the information media, and although we are fully capable of confronting them and returning their actions in kind, we have chosen the path of reason and farsightedness and expect them to wake up to their mistakes and return to the correct path.

We have declared these and other points for which there is no time in this short sermon, because we are Muslims and proceed from Koranic concepts [words indistinct] (?constitution). We insist on these principles. They are not transient stands, for we always hold on to these principles. The enemies of Islam tried to distort this picture. However, we hope that our brothers will understand these facts and correct the mistakes, God willing. Peace be upon those who follow God's guidance.

Assails U.S. Veto

LD221620 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Friday congregational prayers were held throughout the country this week with the massive participation of our committed countrymen. According to our correspondent's report, this week's religiopolitical Friday prayers ceremony in Tehran was attended by huge numbers of worshippers at the meeting place of the lovers of God, Tehran University, and presided over by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Tehran's ad interim Friday imam.

Referring to the fruitful results of unity week, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The holding of this week tore the veils of duplicity and lies off of imperialist propaganda and revealed the true nature of the Islamic Republic.

In connection with the Zionist regime's occupation of the Golan Heights and the superpowers' right of veto in the United Nations, Tehran's ad interim Friday imam said the following:

[Begin recording] One of the most hideous, iniquitous and meaningless things in the world today is the right of veto which has been accorded to a few big-headed and arrogant countries in the United Nations. This problem should be investigated and resolved.

It is the aim of the Islamic Republic to strip them of this iniquitous right which they have concocted for themselves. This is what we have in mind. [chants of "God is great" and thunderous applause]

This United Nations is the type of organization to which countries cannot afford not to belong since if one did not participate in it, it would become even worse than it is now. In other words, they would speak more iniquitously and one's rights would be further trampled underfoot in matters of international relations. But they are there and have imposed it on the world, when in fact it could have been a good institution for preventing wars, acts of aggression and injustices. Unfortunately, the big-headedness, arrogance and selfishness besetting a few colonialist countries, taking hold of a few bullying powers, are preventing this great institution from carrying out its primary function. What they have done is to give a few countries the right of veto. They have given them the right -- even though the majority votes and wishes to take a decision -- to say: No; we do not accept this. The moment one of these countries says we do not agree, the whole thing is disrupted. There are five or six countries, including the United States, the USSR, China, France, Britain, and the rest do not count. These people enjoy such a right. In other words, they all sit together and debate matters, and out of 16, for instance, suppose 14 delegates voted one way, one delegate could then say: No, we do not agree. Then the whole thing is disrupted.

What is the meaning of this? I cannot fathom these thick-skinned people who carry the trumpet of human rights and who, when one guerrilla and one terrorist is arrested in a country, say from afar: Human rights asks for an explanation as to what has happened.

What do these people say to this injustice and what can they tell the world? What advantage do the United States, the USSR or France have that once they say no, the whole world must say no? Why?

Bearing such a stigma of shame and stamping the United Nations with such a stigma of shame, why do you feel no shame and continue to babble about social justice, democracy, the rights of nations and of the majority and similar things? Who do you think you are? Are you our grandfathers; are you our guardians? Who has vested in you the right of guardianship? From where have you obtained this right?

The right of veto is a right which the great prophets of God did not give to themselves in similar circumstances. When it came to ordinary and normal issues the prophet, when a consensus was taken, followed the decision of the majority.

These people have grabbed a right which no one in the history of the world has legally enjoyed. Of course, dictators obtain a great many things, but with force. They take up arms and impose their views on others. But to boast of the law, the United Nations, the League of Nations, the majority, voting, debates and then finally to bring in the right of veto -- what a state of affairs! This is what we see today. At the Security Council, in the United Nations, sanctions are demanded against Israel for usurping the Golan Heights. In other words, sanctions should be taken against a country which has meted out bullying, which has usurped the lands of others, whose parliament has voted for annexing the territories of others, which has violated all international borders, which has made nonsense of respect for borders, which has brought about a crisis in international rules. So they suggest: Let us take sanctions against it, let us admonish it, let us punish it then. But, sitting there, the United States says: No, we do not agree! So the moment it says it does not agree, the whole thing is over. So all the debates, votes, expenditures, trips, (?testimonies) have been in vain. What is the meaning of this?

Today the Iranian nation, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian revolution from the rostrum of the Friday congregational prayers -- the podium for stating the Islamic cause -- proclaims that from the viewpoint of Islam and the Koran, from the standpoint of the revolution, from the viewpoint of justice and from the standpoint of respect for the votes of the people, which you claim, such action is savage, such a deed is unjust, such an act does not tally with human dignity, such action runs counter to the claim of seeking freedom and justice. [applause]

And I tell my Arab brothers, particularly [words indistinct], to such countries as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, to the small Persian Gulf states, to Egypt, I tell them: The United States has proved that it is your enemy. The United States is standing against you with the utmost cheek [words indistinct] when with your oil, your votes, your army, your people are well defending U.S. interests and when, to please the United States, you are waging war against the Islamic revolution, you are officially at war with it. With all this infernal cheek the United States told you: I am your enemy.

If 8-10 million barrels of Saudi oil per day, 2 million barrels of Kuwaiti oil per day and a total of 25-30 million barrels of oil from the Islamic world were not to the United States worth angering Israel and worth one [word indistinct] from Israel, then with what earthly hope do you collaborate with this international rapacious hyena? How would you answer God, if you are truly Muslims; if you are not Muslims, how would you answer your people? How would you answer 4 million Palestinian refugees? How would you answer the war-beset Syrian people? How would you answer the world's justice seekers?

When someone is so blatantly making faces at you, why do you (?wage war in order to serve his interests?) This Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, if it meant your own cooperation, we would be happy, we would applaud and welcome you. Do unite and take the same path. But if you were intending to sit together once again in order to serve as the flunkies of the United States -- the United States which treats you in this manner -- and you wish to bother Iran in the Persian Gulf in order to please the United States, you should know that put together you do not add up to more than one city and that such plots are no problem to the Islamic Republic. [applause]

But it would behove you to reply favorably to our call for unity so that instead of hatching plots you would cooperate with someone who wishes for your good, cooperates with you, fights your enemies, thwarts the evil of colonialism hovering over your heads and does not want a thing from you, not even help. That someone is the Islamic Republic of Iran. [end recording]

At the conclusion of his second prayer sermon, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani then read a speech in Arabic addressed to our Arab brothers.

RAFSANJANI BACKS SYRIAN PROPOSAL ON OIL EMBARGO

LD242134 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 24 Jan (IRNA) -- Addressing the open session of the Majlis, Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the suggestion of the Syrian Government concerning imposing an oil embargo on the United States and criticised the opposition of reactionary governments. Following the unjust veto of the United States on the proposal for sanctions against the usurper regime of Jerusalem because of its annexation of the Syrian Golan Heights, a new wave of sentiment has been created among the Islamic countries and the Arab countries in particular, he said.

This action of the U.S. Government clearly illustrated its deep animosity and hostility to Islam and as a result has made it difficult for those countries which want to side with the U.S., he said. Such countries, Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani added, now cannot defend themselves. But some Arab countries, headed by Syria, are justly calling on the Muslim and Arab countries to punish the U.S. and now it is an opportune moment to use the oil weapon which is the most decisive weapon in the hands of Muslim nations to be used against an enemy which now is showing its teeth and claws.

Unfortunately, he added, some oil producing countries are not heeding such suggestions and some conservative and selfish elements in the Arab world are saying that they must deal with the U.S. in a friendly manner, he added. In other words, he said, such elements want to take revenge for the torpedoing of the Fahd proposal and are saying that the veto of the U.S. was a consequence of the failure of Fahd's proposal.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that the Majlis welcomed the call of the Syrian Government for calling on the UN General Assembly to look into the present case and asked the Foreign Affairs Ministry authorities to take an active part in this respect and not to allow the progressive Muslim countries to remain isolated.

Pointing at the recent savage attack of the French police, monafeqin [hypocrites] and members of the MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] and terrorists against Muslim students while they were holding Friday prayers in Paris, Hashemi-Rafsanjani said that some of the students were brutally injured.

The Majlis speaker also praised the action of those students who while in prison were still defending the truth and justice and hoped that other Muslim students would not leave them alone in their struggle.

During the session the Majlis speaker thanked the Cabinet for presenting the budget bill for the next Iranian year on time. He also thanked the efforts of the Plan and Budget Organisation and the Economic Council. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani also announced that due to the fact that 'Ali Golzadeh Ghafuri, who has been absent from the session more hours than regulations of the Majlis permit, and since he failed to attend the proper session to provide his reasons for his absence, therefore he was stripped from his post in the Majlis.

RAFSANJANI CONDEMNS ATTACK ON STUDENTS IN FRANCE

LD241206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Excerpts] Following the recitation of verses from the glorious Koran, an Islamic Consultative Assembly open session was held this morning, chaired by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who delivered the following speech:

[Begin recording] Today, I wish to raise the issue of the [words indistinct] French police yesterday attacking the Friday prayers centers of our brother student in Paris. Together with hypocrite members and with terrorists, they beat and injured our praying brothers at their center of worship, wounding a number of them.

We know about France's enmity; it is not new to us. We have already witnessed the delivery of the Mirages to Iraq at a time of war, and a few days ago we witnessed the bombing of the heroic city of Gilan-e Gharb by the Mirages of the country which claims to be a defender of human rights. We have witnessed Mitterrand's presence in Israel, his support for the Zionist invaders and also his support for Saddam, the 'Aflaqite invader. This is not new; but what will those who claim to be defenders of human rights say to the world's liberal people to justify an attack on a group of young students who were gathered at the university to pray and who were attacked in such a manner?

We thank our beloved children who, away from home and in the prison of those who claim to be defenders of human rights, defend truth in such a brave manner. We hope that the world's freedom lovers, particularly the beloved Arab students and Muslims throughout the world, will not desert them.

RAFSANJANI COMMENTS ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

LD231942 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 23 Jan (IRNA) -- Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and one of the top leaders of the Islamic Republic Party, granted an interview with the daily ETTELA'AT, published in the newspaper's Thursday and Saturday edition, in which he gave his views on the most important issues facing the Islamic Republic, such as the role of the Majlis in passing laws in favour of the oppressed, the necessity for healthy criticism of government activities, economic sabotage and the like. The following are excerpts of Majlis Speaker Rafsanjani's statements in the interview:

Concerning Imam Khomeyni's permission to the Majlis to exercise special powers on the basis of velayat-e faqih [theocratic rule] and differences with the Council of Guardians: "Unfortunately the views and insight of the Council of Guardians in certain issues do not correspond with those of the majority of the Majlis (deputies) sometimes and this has caused a halt in a number of important and vital bills of the Majlis. On the one hand the importance of the Council of Guardians and the need to secure the validity of the Guardian Council are in themselves important matters. This means that the losses we had during the constitutional revolution [as heard] and the forced seclusion of the five member Jurisprudence Council (the guardian council of the former regime) was very much. Therefore, we must totally respect the principle of the Guardian Council and the Majlis as the constitutional law has provided for." Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani added that Imam Khomeyni's permission had opened the road to some extent but the permission did not cover the determination of "the necessities of the time" and that remained to be determined by the Council of Guardians. He said that it should not be commonly understood that the Guardian Council had lost either its supervision on the laws passed by the Majlis and its power to declare certain laws unconstitutional. This, he said, "is very important."

On the necessity for healthy criticism, the Majlis speaker said that he believed newspapers should not neglect keeping an eye on the events of the country and telling the people of possible weak points which existed and must be reformed by the help of all.

He said that the atmosphere created by the former president, Bani-Sadr, and his ally Rajavi and others was clearly unacceptable anywhere in the world and should not be continued. "What they wanted was to create chaos and to destroy the very foundations of the country," the speaker said, and "to throw to the winds (the achievements of) all the martyrs in a time of war."

He further commented that tolerance (?should) be shown towards those who were honest so they could act in a healthy manner so that "they could have a healthy political life, and have their say."

He then hoped that the Majlis soon would be able to pursue secure and open discussions after terrorism and the war had died down. "They have learned a lesson not be abusive anymore, not to go beyond the limit in criticising, to avoid destructive slander, rumours, agitation which lead ultimately to corruption and terrorism. What we learned was to guard freedom some, and not let freedom be abused with license," he said.

Asked how long the war would go on, Mr Rafsanjani said that it was not possible to exactly predict the end of the conflict but added that if no important event occurred at the international level, Iran would be able to sort out the problem of the war within the next few months.

Commenting on what was happening in (?the region), particularly in the countries around the Persian Gulf, the Majlis speaker criticized certain small countries in the Persian Gulf region for providing Iraq with various kinds of facilities, adding that however, Iran did not intend to take revenge on them.

Emphasising that the Islamic Republic of Iran favoured peace and security in the region, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that the behavior of these countries towards Iran was not in their own interests.

About economic saboteurs, the Majlis speaker said the only solution to this problem was the implementation of Article 49 of the constitutional law and thus to strip them of illegitimate wealth.

(Article 40 of the Constitution: The government shall confiscate the riches amassed through usurpation, bribery, embezzlement, larceny, gambling, misappropriation of government contracts and deals, disposal of waste land and the property belonging to no particular person, running brothels and other illegitimate activities and shall return such riches to their rightful owners and in case no such owner was found, deliver the riches to the state treasury.)

The ruling under this article shall be effected by the government after adequate investigations of each case and after it was legally proved.

But, regarding the private sector, possessing legitimate wealth and possibilities, the hojjat ol-Eslam said that they should be given the chance and ground to utilise their forces to build a powerful industrial base. Stressing the need of increasing domestic production, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani pointed out that the shortage of some goods may play a constructive role in connection with the country's reaching self-sufficiency.

The Majlis speaker elaborated Iranians might have to go without certain commodities for few years but this would encourage internal production so that eventually Iran might even become an exporter of the same commodity.

Mr Rafsanjani said that if Iran was due to import all the ammunition now needed for defending the country, the revenue of the five million barrels per day of oil (referring to the production level during the ex-shah's time) would not even have sufficed for this end.

He added that at the present time this ammunition is being made in Iranian factories.

DETAILS OF DEFENSE COUNCIL SESSION REPORTED

LD240016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Supreme Defense Council met tonight under the chairmanship of President Khamene'i.

The meeting, attended by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, representing the imam; Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi; General Zahirnezhad, chief of staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Colonel Salimi, minister of defense; 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs; [words indistinct], acting commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; and Kamal Gharazi [director of IRNA and chief of the council's Publicity Staff] discussed the situation on the battlefields and future military strategies and made appropriate decisions.

Our correspondent interviewed 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani after the council meeting:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, would you be good enough to brief us on the topics discussed tonight by the council and on the decisions that were made?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The Supreme Defense Council generally has a set agenda. The chief of staff reports on the situation at the fronts, and when the minister of foreign affairs attends the meeting, he briefs the council on the latest international development. The council discusses the war's [words indistinct] and arms purchases and requirements and we review these topics. This week we had no issue of major significance, so most of the council's discussion tonight concerned domestic topics and political issues connected with the war.

[Question] The Iraqi regime's mercenaries recently attacked on the southern front and caused a number of casualties. Would you please comment on this?

[Answer] We made enquiries concerning this, and it was determined that the newspapers had exaggerated. What happened was within the framework of the forces' usual movements; a move and course usually taken by the forces to make some noise in order not to appear too quiet. These are reconnaissance movements, in order to [words indistinct]. The Iraqi offensive was not a significant one. In general, the Iraqis on almost all the fronts are either [words indistinct] or in a state of retreat. The reports we receive -- and they are from reliable sources -- confirm Iraq's inability to make any serious move. From time to time they make noises with their artillery in order to boost their soldiers' morale on the fronts.

[Question] There are rumors that counterrevolutionaries have recently been active in the west of the country. Could you possibly elaborate on this?

[Answer] Fortunately, the situation in the west of the country is similar to that of the Iraqis. The counterrevolutionary elements have been driven from the towns, from many villages. They are mainly in the mountains, in the valleys and in the villages, and sometimes those who had retreated into Iraqi territory try to infiltrate into Iran. Iraq does not lose any time in trying to divert our attention. We have taught our forces not to be impressed [word indistinct].

[Question] May we have your views on the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the report that the six member-states of the council have purchased more than \$30-billion worth of arms. Also, could you comment on the recent activities of the member-states and on the scheduled meetings of their foreign and defense ministers?

[Answer] Concerning the purchase of arms, we do not know if the report is correct. According to newspaper reports, the Saudis have purchased arms.

However, this is not an important issue because the southern Persian Gulf states are very small, each having no more than a few hundred thousand people, and most of them containing a maximum of one city. We, too, wish that these states may live in an atmosphere [words indistinct] and calm. They are neither a minor obstacle to us nor an obstruction. The most (?they can do) is to serve the Iraqi Government or to provide the Iraqis with services such as hospitals or aid Iraq financially. They have done this. [passage indistinct]

As far as this concerns the presence of foreign powers and the paving of the way for the United States, then the issue has another dimension and our approach to it will be a different one. [Words indistinct] we do not have a propaganda policy toward this.

[Question] To follow up this point, it has been said that the arms purchased by Syria from the Soviet Union -- part of the purchase -- has been handed over by the Syrians to Iran for use in the war. Could you possibly elaborate on this?

[Answer] Of course. Throughout the war we have from our brothers, Libya and Syria, [words indistinct]. However, we have no need for arms at the moment. What is most important at the moment is ammunition which [words indistinct]. We get it from various sources, sometimes Western and sometimes Eastern sources; sometimes the source is the open market. [passage indistinct]

Tonight we also discussed the Iranian proposal that families of the Iraqi POW's be accorded the opportunity to visit their sons in Iran. Iraq, too, [words indistinct] in order not to fall behind, has apparently informed the United Nations that it is also prepared to let families of the Iranian POW's visit their sons in Iraq. We welcome the Iraqi invitation and have told the Foreign Ministry to inform the Iraqis that Iran is willing to receive the families of all 7,000 Iraqi POW's. Perhaps the figure could be more or less [words indistinct] at the same time it was decided to inform the Iranian public and those who have POW sons in Iraq, through the radio and newspapers, to sign up at their local police station if they are prepared to visit Iraq. We will send them to visit their sons and at the same time give them an opportunity for pilgrimage. By the time you hear this interview, you might have received the official news concerning the decision. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 767-769

767: 22 Jan Report

LD221758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Jan 82

[Communique 767 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The selfless combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran, enjoying the blessing and support of the endless power of God and determined to break and crush the aggressive Saddamist forces which are composed of unaware and deceived persons who have deviated from Islamic goals, courageously continue the battle to the final victory -- the victory of Islam. That day will come when our brother Muslim Iraqi soldiers realize how the mercenary Ba'thist leaders of Iraq have led them astray and how the Muslim combatants of Iran, inspired by the Koran, have found the right path. Now, here are the results of the operations and battles fought by the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran over the past 24 hours:

Along most of the southern fronts during the past 24 hours, sporadic artillery and heavy-weapon fire was exchanged between our powerful combatants and the aggressive Iraqi forces. The fire on the fronts west of Dezful was more intense than along other fronts. An enemy tank, ammunition depot and several trenches were destroyed and nine Iraqis were either killed or wounded.

Along the Dasht-e 'Abi and (Shavariyeh) fronts, ground forces combatants either killed or wounded about 16 Saddamists and set fire to several observation posts and trenches.

The combatants of the ground forces and the warriors of the gendarmerie along the Abadan and Arvand Rud fronts fired on enemy positions, killing a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying seven trenches and observation posts.

Also, in Darkhovin, our forces dealt blows to the aggressive Iraqi forces.

On the western fronts, especially near Bakhtaran and Ilam, the brave warriors of the ground forces and other defenders of the Islamic homeland of Iran, supported by the powerful artillery fire of the ground forces, exchanged fire with the aggressive Saddamist forces. Opening fire on the Iraqi infantry, artillery, tanks, motorized units and supply routes, our forces silenced the enemy fire, killed and wounded a number of the aggressive forces, destroyed a tank, two guns, two trucks and damaged several other vehicles. Several other trenches were destroyed and the soldiers killed.

Yesterday a number of aggressive Iraqi planes, which intended to violate the airspace above several southern and western border towns, were forced to flee after being fired on by the anti-aircraft guns of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

768: 23 Jan Report

LD231714 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Communique 768 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name: During the past 24 hours, fighting continued on most western and southern fronts, with exchanges of artillery and mortar fire between our victorious forces and those of the enemy. While maintaining their positions and defending their occupied areas, our combatants continued their military and psychological dominance, opening fire on and severely crushing the positions occupied by the aggressors. The combatants of the ground forces stationed in the region to the west of Dezful opened artillery fire on enemy positions, destroying 8 foxholes and trenches, 2 observation posts and 1 mortar and killing or wounding at least 10 of Saddam's forces.

In Dasht-e 'Abbas and Eyn Khosh, our forces' fire destroyed one enemy trench and two observation posts and killed a number of Saddamists.

The warriors of the navy opened fire on enemy positions in the occupied part of Khuninshahr, stopping enemy activity and destroying an ammunition depot.

Yesterday heavy-weapon fire by Saddam's army on residential districts of Abadan wounded a number of our compatriots and destroyed several residences.

In the Gilan-e Gharb region, our forces opened fire on enemy infantry and artillery positions, destroying three enemy posts and a fieldgun and killing or wounding a number of enemy personnel. The combatants of the ground forces opened effective fire on enemy positions and personnel on the Zel-e Zard-Mahshahr road, destroying a number of trenches and killing a number of Iraqi soldiers. During a confrontation between our heroic personnel and Iraqi soldiers in the Malekshahi region, more than 20 enemy soldiers were killed, 8 foxholes and trenches and an ammunition dump were destroyed and several vehicles belonging to the Saddamists were damaged.

In the battle fought on 20 and 21 January six of our dear brothers from the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred and immortalized. Peace be upon on their souls.

769: 24 Jan Report

LD241754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Communique 769 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Oh noble and grateful compatriots: Your soldier-brothers' battle on the fronts will continue until Saddam's aggressive soldiers are destroyed. During the past 24 hours, their operations have consisted of the following:

During the past 24 hours, a battle and sporadic artillery and mortar fire occurred on the western fronts; thanks to the fire of the combatants of the ground forces and heavy artillery fire on enemy artillery, tanks and vehicles, the following results were achieved:

1. Thanks to the intense fire by the combatants of Islam, the enemy suffered losses and casualties and was forced to leave or alter its artillery positions. Two enemy Katyushas were also damaged.
2. More than 16 trenches and foxholes and a bunker containing heavy-weapons' ammunition were destroyed.
3. One 120-mm mortar was destroyed and its crew was killed.
4. A number of vehicles were damaged, and two pieces of trench-digging equipment were rendered inoperative.
5. A number of Saddam's deceived soldiers were killed or wounded.

The self-sacrificing tribal mobilization personnel bravely defended their positions and sectors on the Dar Ballut and Tang-e Hajian fronts, and by returning enemy fire and dealing effective blows at the Iraqi forces, prevented and neutralized any form of enemy activity.

During the battles and exchanges of fire on the southern fronts yesterday, the combatants of the ground forces returned fire and, while defending their defensive positions and silencing enemy fire, inflicted losses and casualties on the aggressive Iraqi forces and neutralized their movements.

The self-sacrificing personnel of the police units on the Abadan front are resisting Saddam's mercenaries with inimitable bravery and self-sacrifice; by returning fire on enemy positions, they are safeguarding their defensive positions.

During the past 24 hours, the residential and commercial areas of Abadan were brought under fire by long-range Iraqi artillery; houses and facilities were damaged, and a number of our dear Abadani compatriots were injured.

Yesterday a number of planes of the aggressive Iraqi Army tried to violate the airspace of a number of towns in the war zones; but thanks to the fire of the antiaircraft units in the areas, the planes were forced to flee.

During the battle on 22 January, 12 self-sacrificing personnel of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran were martyred.

GUARDS CORPS OPERATIONS IN KORDESTAN REPORTED

LD231728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jan 82

[Text] The Central Islamic Revolution Guards Corps spokesman has announced that on 21 January, forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, accompanied by the Kurdish peshmerga and gendarmerie personnel, killed seven insurgents and members of the U.S. minigroup Komeleh, including one of its commanders, during a coordinated operation. Eight other insurgents were injured.

During a clash between revolution guards and armed and outlawed insurgents in the (Cheshmeh Dar) region of Marivan jurisdiction, three counterrevolutionaries were killed and another six were wounded.

Furthermore, a revolution guards patrol arrested three insurgent members of the outlawed Democratic Party in one of Tabab's villages.

MUSAVI-ARDABILI ON SPLINTER GROUPS, AMNESTY

LD241828 Tehran IFNA in English 1707 GMT 24 Jan 82

[Text] Tehran, 24 Jan (IRNA) -- Aligned counterrevolutionary groups (specially the MKO) [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] no longer are a threat to the revolution and the Islamic Government of Iran, said Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, the chief justice of the Supreme Court today. The ayatollah added: "This danger, which was going to cause us some troubles, no longer exists, thanks to the vigilance and decisiveness of the country's judicial officials."

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, who was speaking in an interview with IRNA, said however there were remnants of these groups who every now and then launched some sort of destructive activities. The chief justice added: "Our programme today is to carry out scientific and social studies in an attempt to discover the cause behind the coming into existence of these splinter groups and their assassination attempts in the society." In the past, said the ayatollah, there was a time when Iran had to confront such groups militarily and judicially, adding that: "But from now on the efforts should aim at creating a healthy environment. The root of the problem must be discovered and eliminated."

Referring to the conspiracies being hatched by the superpowers to scare countries neighbouring Iran, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said: "These efforts are being launched because they are afraid of a powerful Iran with an Islamic system." He then called on the leaders of the Muslim countries to honestly follow the path of Islam and not put their wealth at the disposal of the imperialists, and he further stressed that "the message of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our revolution is freedom and independence."

About amnesty for prisoners, the chief justice said if it were proven to the officials that any reformed prisoner would not stand against the revolution again after his release, he would be released. He added that some decisions had been taken by the Supreme Judicial Council (of which the ayatollah is also a member) on amnesty for prisoners, which Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said would soon be issued to the Islamic revolutionary courts.

Asked for his opinion on high prices, embezzlement and the economy, the ayatollah pointed out that all the existing problems stemmed from the Iraqi-imposed war and the economic sanctions, for which he said time was needed to solve.

NVOI ASSAILS ANTI-SOVIET SLOGANS, PROPAGANDA

TA211957 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 21 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary: "(?Making an Issue) of the Soviet Union Is Not To the Benefit of the Revolution"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: Occasionally in our homeland the millions-strong masses are witnessing certain incidents that cannot but arouse their amazement and concern. Heaping abuse on the true friends of the revolution in the international arena, particularly against the Soviet Union, by the compromising liberals, other dregs of the great Satan and the pseudoclergy is something natural, and one cannot expect otherwise. They all have a mission and cannot be blamed. Rumormongering, distorting the facts and raising the name of the Soviet Union and other true friends of revolutionary Iran is one of the most important duties which all foes of the nation's popular and anti-imperialist revolution are dutybound to implement.

The imam has rightly said that one of the most basic goals of the U.S. fifth column in Iran from raising the name of the Soviet Union is to negate the great Satan and the slogan "Death to America." What in this connection is causing the amazement and concern of millions of sincere followers of the imam's popular and anti-imperialist line is the abuse by some circles and officials against our northern neighbor, the Soviet Union, and other true friends of the Iranian revolution in the international arena, and without presenting any sort of evidence, witness or documentation at that.

The fact is that some circles and a number of officials and authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, either due to being misled, or due to mental prejudice, fanaticism and the intimations of imperialist and Zionist mass media, or out of fear of the accusations of the revolution's enemies -- the compromising liberals, the Ranjbaris and other dregs of world-devouring America -- now and then strive along with the principle and main slogan of "Death to America" to also impose on society the slogan of "Death to the Soviet Union."

They erroneously believe that they can allegedly prove their independence by seeking refuge under the expression "the two superpowers" or the slogan "Neither East nor West," and worst of all by resorting to abuse and slander against the Soviet Union. They at least do not pay heed to the indisputable principle that when the people rightly say "Death to America, death to the great Satan" they possess thousands of pieces of evidence, documents and witnesses to prove the correctness and justness of this slogan.

For nearly half a century our struggling nation itself has been witness to the crimes, aggressions and plunderings of this world devourer. However, when as a result of having been misled, and due to mental prejudice and superficiality, or due to the intimations of the compromising liberals and imperialist and Zionist mass media, or out of fear of the revolution's enemies, some forces and certain elements equate the Soviet Union -- this true friend of our nation and our popular and anti-imperialist revolution -- with the sworn enemy of the revolution -- the aggressive America -- they do not possess any evidence, not even a single document or witness to verify their claim.

The indisputable events of history indicate that from the very outset of the peak of the revolutionary struggles of our homeland's people and up to the present, our northern neighbor has supported and continues to support Iran's popular and anti-imperialist revolution. No one is able to show even one instance to refute this claim.

Despite so much abuse and accusations by a number of our country's officials, the Soviet Union has always extended and continues to extend a hand of friendship toward liberated Iran's Islamic government.

During the 3 years of the Islamic Republic of Iran's life, the Soviet Union rose in defense of our revolutionary homeland against any anti-Iranian measure by world-devouring America, and has always warned America to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These facts are wellknown by Iran's alert and always-on-the-scene people. Therefore, it is impossible to deceive them.

Those who without any evidence and basis, or under the effect of whatever elements, engage in raising the name of the Soviet Union, do not pay heed that irrespective of the fact that they are acting to the detriment of the revolution, at the same time they are causing damage to their own prestige among millions of Iran's free and alert people.

The result of this incorrect approach is exactly what the imam of the nation has stated, nothing other than an endeavor to negate aggressive America.